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GENERAL

1. USSR to protest formation of Austrian gendarmerie unit--
US Commanding General Keyes in Austria reports that a meeting of the Quadripartite Military Directorate for Austria has been "called and instigated" by the Soviet element for 4 April 1950 to discuss Soviet charges regarding "the illegal formation of an Austrian gendarmerie regiment in the Western Zones." According to Keyes, the Soviet representatives contend that the sub-divisions of a future Austrian army are evident in the gendarmerie regiment and that because of this, the Austrian Government is failing to fulfill basic Allied Control Council agreements. Keyes expresses the opinion that the Soviet representative to the Directorate will offer a resolution: (a) instructing the Austrian Government to fulfill Allied decisions regarding demilitarization and the prohibition of military activity in the ranks of the police and gendarmerie; and (b) establishing a four-power commission to investigate the facts relating to the activities and organization of the gendarmerie regiment.
2. Decision on all-Berlin election proposal urged--US Commanding General Taylor in Berlin reports that following a discussion by the Western military commandants in Berlin of the suggested Western proposal to the USSR for all-Berlin elections, the British and French commandants have referred the matter to their superiors. Taylor expresses the opinion that timing now appears urgent and suggests that plans for making the proposal to the USSR be carried forward without delay. Taylor points out that Berlin Assembly President Suhr has publicly gone on record in favor of an approach to the USSR and has hinted

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that "popular pressure" may be brought to bear on the commandants if they do not reach a decision soon. Taylor expresses the belief that 20 April 1950 would be the most suitable time for the proposal to be made because of May Day and the Berlin Communist Youth Rally scheduled for 28 May.

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FAR EAST

3. BURMA: Immediate US aid recommended--US representative Griffin, continuing his survey of the need and prospects for US aid to Southeast Asia, recommends that, regardless of the present Burmese Government's leftist leanings, immediate US aid be extended to Burma in order to combat present chaotic conditions which invite the spread of Communism. Griffin suggests aid in the fields of agriculture, health, and education, as well as rehabilitation of destroyed villages and reconstruction of transport and communications, all of which he feels would directly contribute to increased Burmese stability. Griffin expresses the opinion that reliance on the UK to carry the major responsibility for economic and technical aid to Burma would be a mistake, both because of limited Commonwealth resources and because of "excessive mutual suspicion and antagonism" between the Burmese and the British.

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